

Chad Richter
Cindy Brown
Dale Stine
David Leeds
Edison Farrow
Elizabeth Schwartz
Gayle Durham
James Weingarten
Jorge Richa
Laura Veitia
Mark Wylie
Michael Bath
Nellie Barrios

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Members in attendance were, Chad Richter, Cindy Brown, Dale Stine, Edison Farrow, Elizabeth Schwartz, Gayle Durham, James Weingarten, Laura Veitia, Mark Wylie, Michael Bath, Nellie Barrios. From Administration: Daphne Saba, Detective Juan Sanchez. Guests: George Neary (The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau) and Suzie Sponder (The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau – Public Relations).

1. Old Business

- a) Motion to approve minutes from the June 9, 2015 meeting was moved by Cindy Brown.
Unanimous approval.

2. Subcommittee Reports

- a) Senior Programming (Liz, David, Jorge, Laura)
 - i. Liz informed the committee that Joan Schaeffer was hired as the LGBT Community Organizer for Jewish Community Services (JCS).
 - ii. As per HRC municipality application, Cindy said that the committee needs to substantiate senior programming and inquired about getting a letter on JCS letterhead from Joan to validate it. Cindy said she would email Liz with the details, and Liz said she would reach out to Joan. George suggested Joan be invited to the September 18th meeting.
- b) Visibility and Marketing (Dale, Cindy, Nellie, Chad, Thomas)
 - i. Chad spoke on behalf of the subcommittee and said that they would like to combine their focus on both getting the street signs, and an AIDS memorial for the city. The subcommittee discussed that the pavement by the large tree outside city hall could be tiled and converted into a memorial site. The committee intends on speaking to the city and Art in Public Places to find out if this is a possibility. Chad also said that the subcommittee felt they were losing steam with some of their initiatives, and the members agreed that it would be a good idea to combine Visibility and Marketing with the Attract LGBT Businesses subcommittee.
 - ii. Cindy volunteered to reach out to Dennis from Art in Public Places and speak with him regarding the possibility of the AIDS memorial.
- c) Attract LGBT Businesses to Miami Beach (Edison, Michael, Mark, Gayle)
 - i. Michael Bath spoke on behalf of the subcommittee. Michael said the committee met with George Neary and Barry Moskowitz from GMCVB. Gayle briefed the

committee on the minutes that were circulated from that meeting, and spoke about creating and distributing an annual newsletter that would list LGBT events, gay friendly hotels/ clubs, etc. Gayle said these newsletters could be given to concierge at hotels and at the kiosk in the Miami Beach Convention Center for distribution.

3. Ongoing Business

a) Celebrate Orgullo

- i. Dale spoke on behalf of Herb Sosa and informed the committee that 2015 would be the fifth year that Orgullo is held. They are doing a full month of programming on the beach, in various locations. Dale said that because Orgullo is having their festival in Museum Park (in downtown Miami), the Miami Beach Visitor and Convention Authority (VCA) pulled all their funding. Due to that, Dale opened the floor for discussion as to what the committee could do for Orgullo. Cindy said that the VCA was a grant panel composed of volunteer members of the community, and suggested that speaking/ writing to the committee for decision reversal would not be a good idea.

b) Transgender HRC Policy & Religious Exemption

- i. Committee members discussed that they were expecting language from Rob to include on the LTC, but had not yet received that. Liz said she was in communication with Commissioner Michael Grieco, and sent his staff person (likely Danila Bonini) the two pending LTCs: religious exemption and street signs. The items were not on the agenda for the July 8th commission meeting. The committee discussed reaching out to commissioners again, pending Rob's bullet points. Michael suggested the committee focus on reaching out to two commissioners: Michael Grieco and Micky Steinberg. Michael volunteered to reach out to Commissioner Steinberg and Liz said she would reach out to Commissioner Steinberg. Michael asked Liz to email Commissioner Grieco's response to Daphne so that she could circulate it with the rest of the committee.

c) MBPD Updates

- i. Detective Juan Sanchez informed the committee that he traveled with the Department of Justice to present the "Transgender Interactions with Law Enforcement" to trainers for the Middle District of Florida at the US Attorney's Office. He said it went very well. Detective Sanchez also noted that he was able to attend their pride festival, which took place at night.
- ii. Detective Sanchez said he was asked to approach the pride committee about moving the next few festivals to fall on Memorial Day Weekend (MDW), as well as having it during World Out Games. Detective Sanchez said that the pride committee declined to move it, and agreed with them. He did mention a couple advantages to moving it to MDW, such as a \$17,000 savings on police officers, and additional savings on barricades.
- iii. Cindy asked Detective Sanchez if he had done other presentations in Florida police departments, and if it would be helpful to connect him with Equality Florida's transaction committee. Detective Sanchez said there was a disconnect

between him and the Department of Justice. According to Sanchez, the Department of Justice does trainings with two police officers, two members of the transgender community, and two people with the Department of Justice. FDLE said that the only way these trainings could take place was if the police officers could find a member of the transgender community they could vet (i.e. no criminal past). Sanchez said that the problem they keep having with the Department of Justice is finding two people that will commit to the city's 5 class per week, 6-week training. Detective Sanchez says he prefers showing the officers the PowerPoint presentation right away, than waiting for someone to complete a 6-week training.

- iv. Cindy asked Detective Sanchez to send her a document of his trainings so that she can include it in the HRC application.

d) **LGBT GMCVB Update**

- i. George Neary introduced Suzie Sponder, who does PR for the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB). Suzie told the committee that she does media relations for the GMCVB, emphasizing on the European and Asian markets. The focus of her work is promotions and boutique and life style marketing. She told the committee that she invites journalists to come and participate in press trips, or responds to individual media requests. She also talked about all the promotion that the GMCVB generates for the city.

e) **HRC Application Committee Update and Plan**

- i. Dale informed the committee that he and Cindy were working on getting items from Detective Sanchez and Rob. George Neary suggested that they use some GMCVB articles to include in the packet.

f) **Winter Party, White Party, and Pride Extended Hours**

- i. Michael proposed sending out an LTC to extend the bar hours on Friday and Saturday night to 7am the following day for the Winter Party, White Party, and Pride. Michael motioned to move this, second by Chad. Unanimous approval.

4. New Business

a) **Mid-Year Check in**

- i. Michael opened the floor to discussion. Chad emphasized that he believed the Attract LGBT Business and Visibility and Marketing subcommittees should merge. Michael asked if the current committee "setup" was effective, if it would make sense to spend a half hour on subcommittee minutes, or spend half an hour on a single topic. Laura said that it would be wiser to write the LTCs on the spot, rather than put it off. She alluded to last meeting when Rob was giving the committee bullet points, and said that should have been the time we wrote that down. Chad said the committee needs a shared vision, from the large committee not the subcommittees. Michael said that if everyone came prepared to run the meeting, everyone would be much more prepared to discuss topics.

- ii. Michael suggested everyone independently send their thoughts to Daphne, to be shared in the September meeting.
- iii. Michael requested that the September meeting start with this item first.

5. Other Business

- a) Cindy said there was a Miami Equality Connection at Via Verdi on July 21st and Liz would be the presenter.
- b) Michael invited everyone to Task Force Reception at Bacardi, on July 16th in Coral Gables.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.